

In-Fur-Nation

Your Guide to the World of Furry Fandom

Volume 18, Number 1

All The News We Get, We Print!

Winter, 2007



< Image c. 2006, Warner Brothers Studios >

"I'm gonna be telling your story, Mumble Happy Feet – Long after you are dead and gone!" – Lovelace, penguin guru, in Warner Brothers' *Happy Feet*.

It's 2007, and once again it's time to vote – This time, for the *Ursa Major Awards* for 2006! Read on to find out more, after a brief time for...

The News

After griping about a "CGI Glut" in the latter days of summer, 2006, suddenly this winter all of Hollywood was buzzing about dancing penguins. *Happy Feet* from Warner Brothers didn't waddle: it flew, right from the starting gate: Number 1 at the box office on its opening weekend, and staying on top for three straight weeks – something very few films did in 2006, animated or otherwise. As of this writing, *Happy Feet* is hanging on the edge of becoming only the second animated film of 2006 to cross the \$200 million box office mark, after Disney/Pixar's *Cars* (which is not furry, but it is anthropomorphic!). While *Cars* went on to win the Golden Globe Award for Best Animated Feature, *Happy Feet* took home the Golden Globe for Best Song (for Prince's end-credit piece called *Song of the Heart*). Unfortunately, that song was not nominated for an Academy Award, though *Our Town* by James Taylor (from *Cars*) was. Both *Happy Feet* and *Cars* were nominated for Oscars for Best Animated Feature, as was Sony Pictures' *Monster House* (which, again, is anthropomorphic in an odd sense...).

Prior to that, of course, are the Annie Awards – the Oscars for animation, presented by the International Animated Film Society (ASIFA) on February 11th at the Alex Theater in Glendale, California. As expected, *Cars* drove away with Best Feature Film, as well as Best Score. But, perhaps the surprise of the evening: *Cars* was not a sweep. In fact, the awards were spread out over a wide variety of movies and TV shows. The biggest winner of the evening by numbers was *Flushed Away*, which won in several production categories as well as an award for Sir Ian McKellen (as "The Toad") for Voice Acting. *Bambi 2* won for Best Home Entertainment (i.e. straight-to-video) Production, while *Over the Hedge* won for Character Design, Storyboarding,

and Directing. Over on the TV side of things, *Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends* won for Best TV Production, Best Music in a TV Production, and Production Design in a TV Production. (Speaking of which: Look for *Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends: Complete Season One* on DVD this March 6th.) Meanwhile, *Scrat* picked himself up an Annie Award as Blue Sky's *No Time for Nuts* won Best Animated Short Subject.

Late-Breaking News: And then, despite all expectations, the Academy Awards gave the Oscar to... *Happy Feet*!

In the "from out of nowhere" department for this issue: By the time you read this, *Happy N'Ever* After will have come and, for the most part, gone. Produced by Vanguard Productions and John H. Williams (*Shrek*, *Valiant*), and created by Mental Images (in Berlin, Germany) for Lionsgate Films, the movie follows the story of what happens when Cinderella's wicked stepmother (voiced by Sigourney Weaver) gets a hold of a magic wand and decides to really mess things up in Fairy Tale Land. The cast includes several well-known actors and voice actors, and features numerous human and non-human characters – including a pair of magical, bumbling animal sidekicks named Munk and Mambo, voiced by Wallace Shawn and Andy Dick, respectively. Hardly a peep of publicity was heard about this film until after Christmas in 2006. Critics were less than kind, and audiences weren't much better, as the film did not exactly burn up the box office. Vanguard's next film, *Space Chimps* (about a pair of simian astronauts who head off course into another galaxy!) is already in production, and slated for release by Fox in 2008.



< Image c. 2006, Warner Brothers Studios >

Once again it's time for the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* to conquer... the movie theaters! Returning in a brand-new CGI adventure this coming March 27th, this new *Turtles* film (directed by newcomer Kevin Munroe and released by Warner Brothers) finds the heroes-in-a-half-shell battling an evil industrialist (voiced by Patrick Stewart) intent on using an army of ancient monsters – and the foot clan, eager for revenge on the turtles – to take over the world. Other voices in the new film include Mako (who passed away during production), Sarah Michelle Gellar, Kevin Smith,

Laurence Fishburn, Billy West, and Kevin Michael Richardson. On the eve of the new film, *Mirage* will release five new black & white one-shots, each comic book featuring one of the turtles and April O'Neil in solo adventures. A comic book adaptation of the movie itself is also headed to the shelves, of course, as is *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Fast Forward Volume 1* on DVD from Funimation. The 2D animation DVD follows the adventures of the turtle guys as they awaken 99 years in the future.

Disney-watcher **Jim Hill** (www.jimhillmedia.com) has been following a set of films that have been green-lit by the mouse house of late. One notable development is *South of the Border*, a live-action film with computer enhancements slated for release in 2008. The story follows a pampered pet chihuahua, accidentally left behind in Mexico by a rich owner, who must enlist the aid of local chihuahuas in order to get back home to the USA.

Dreamworks is busy adapting **Cressida Cowell's** novel for children *How to Train Your Dragon* (Hodder Children's Books) as an animated film, set for release in 2010. In a Viking village in northern England, long ago, young Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III (son of the village chieftain) must complete the right-of-passage for his village: Capturing and raising a young dragon from the local brood!

Videos and DVDs

This is direct from author **Peter S. Beagle's** publisher, Conlan Press: On February 6, 2007, Lionsgate Entertainment released a special 25th Anniversary DVD of *The Last Unicorn* (animated by Rankin Bass – *ye ed-otter!*). This new edition is a huge improvement over the old one. It is digitally remastered so it looks great and has 5.1 audio; it is widescreen instead of fullscreen; it has much better packaging; and it comes with special features, including a video interview with Peter. Best of all, Lionsgate has agreed to let us sell copies of the DVD through Conlan Press, and more than half of each sale will go straight to Peter and his projects. If you plan on buying this DVD, please buy it here — because Peter will get nothing from copies sold through any other outlet. [Visit <http://www.conlanpress.com/youcanhelp> to find out more about how that came about, and what you can do.]

Small animation houses often time their video (and now DVD) releases to coincide with major studio releases on video/DVD to give them some easy publicity. Now with the release of a new "Most Wanted Edition" of Disney's *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, BKN Entertainment has announced the release of *Robin Hood: Quest for the King*, a CGI animated film with an all-animal cast — though several different species from the Disney film, of course. For instance, in this film Robin Hood and Maid Marion are bobcats. To see and find out more about the film, including a trailer and production art, you can visit www.bknhomeentertainment.com/release/robin_mid.html. According to the web site, the film is scheduled for release in late July of this year.

England's Break-Thru Films has completed a new stop-motion animation version of *Peter and the Wolf*. Directed by **Suzie Templeton** (*Dog*), this half-hour film illustrates **Sergei Prokofiev's** famous classical story-song of Peter, a young Russian boy whose village is stalked by a vicious and deadly wolf. With the help of a crazy bird and a dreamy

duck, Peter sets out to hunt down and destroy the marauder. You can find out about this film and short subjects at www.breakthrufilms.co.uk, or purchase the DVD of *Peter & the Wolf* at www.amazon.co.uk.

Furry TV comes to DVD: The complete first season of the original *Beauty & the Beast* TV series from the 80's will be released very soon as a 4-DVD box set. An assistant district attorney, Catherine (played by **Linda Hamilton**) falls for a romantic, poetry-reciting beast named Vincent (played by **Ron Perlman**) in the hidden society among the catacombs beneath New York City. Many a cat-fancying female learned of her own inner furry fandom thanks to this show...

Comics

Stan Sakai's Usagi Yojimbo celebrates a milestone as Dark Horse Comics releases issue #100. This special celebration issue features a good-natured roast (in black & white, of course) of the creator and his creation by some of the biggest names in comics, including **Rick Geary, Frank Miller, Jeff Smith, Sergio Aragones, Guy Davis, Art Egan, Scott Shaw, Jamie S. Rich, and Andi Watson.**

DC Comics has a brand-new multi-comic-series era: running now called "The Helmet of Fate", in which the magical golden helmet of Dr. Fate falls into the hands of various characters across the DC Comics universe. Perhaps one of the oddest of these can be found in the new *Helmet of Fate: Detective Chimp* full-color series (from writer **Bill Willingham** (*Fables*) and artist **Shawn McManus** (*Sandman*)). Bobo the private-eye chimp (who's actually been in the DC universe for many years now) uses the magical helmet to investigate the murders of a band of super-hero wannabes.

Animator **Rick Keene** and Revolution Booksellers are releasing *Willy Weaseley* — so lock up your daughters! Willy is a cartoon animal stand-in for the male id, and this very mature-themed black & white comic comes to shelves this March.

Wallace and Gromit's helpful friend *Shaun the Sheep* (from *A Close Shave*) gets his own full-color comic from Titan Publishing. Join Shaun and his friends Bitzer, Pig, and Timmy for comic adventures down on the farm, as well as puzzles and other activities for younger kids.

Books and Trade Paperbacks

Two new books on the shelves may be very helpful to aspiring creators. Veteran scriptwriter **Christy Marx** brings us *Writing for Animation, Comics, and Games*. Experienced in writing for TV (*X-Men*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*), graphic novels (*Red Sonja*), and games (*Conquests of Camelot*), Ms. Marx offers practical advice on script formats and productions terms, as well as how to find a good agent and seek out resources and organizations to help you. Taking the next step, the third edition of *Storyboards – Motion in Art* by **Mark Simon** includes instruction on the fine art of storyboarding for animation, games, and web sites; as well as interviews with famous storyboard artists like **Alex Saviuk, Mark Moore** (ILM), **Sean Cushing**, and **Tim Burgard**. Finally, *Designing Movie Creatures and Characters* by **Richard Rikitt** showcases the creation (and animation) of some of the most beloved monsters and fantasy characters in cinema, from the Creature in the Black

Lagoon to Yoda and beyond. He also spotlights many of the folks behind the creations, from Jim Henson's Creature Shop to the folks at Weta Digital. All three of these books are available from Focal Press.

Mirage has collected the black & white *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* stories of famed comic book artist **Michael Zulli** (*The Sandman*) into a 112-page trade paperback entitled *Soul's Winter* (on the shelves now). Zulli's unique and striking re-design of the turtle brothers and master Splinter raised quite a stir when they appeared in the early 90's.

Dark Horse Comics has released **Rod Espinosa's** black & white fantasy comic series *The Courageous Princess* as a 240-page graphic novel in trade paperback. Princess Mablerose and her best friend, a talking porcupine, battle fierce enemies (like a tyrant tiger king and a mighty dragon with an army of trolls), forming friendships with many humans, creatures, and magical beings along the way.

Silent Devil Productions (through their Little Foot Press imprint) present the *Mr. Big* graphic novel (in black and white) by **Carol and Matt Dembicki**. In a swampy pond where only the strong survive, a plan is launched to eradicate Mr. Big – a vicious snapping turtle who terrorizes the whole ecosystem. The animal denizens make an ill-advised pact with a murder of crows to carry out the deadly deed – but, the scheming crows have their own motives for wanting Mr. Big dead.

NBM brings us the first collection of the adventures of Marvin the Vegetarian Dragon and Herbert the Timorous Duck in the new full-color trade paperback *Dungeon Parade Volume 1: One Dungeon Too Many* (by **Sfar, Trondheim, and Larcenet**). The local dungeon makes a tidy profit by attracting adventurers – and then dispensing with them. But, when a new dungeon appears in the land, leading away vital would-be heroes, the Masters of the Dungeon dispense Marvin and Herbert to investigate.

Volume 10 of **Osamu Tezuka's** famed black & white manga series *Phoenix* (available now as a trade paperback from Viz) features a particularly furry story. In 663 AD, a soldier named Harima is punished by being given the face of a wolf. Haunted by nightmares, he finds himself in communication with Bando Suguru, an agent from the 21st century – and also, witnessing an intense battle facing the phoenix in the spirit realm.

From Shanda Fantasy Arts comes the *Invitation to the Dance* trade paperback by **Mike Curtis, Mike Sagara, and Michelle Light**. It collects the original black & white MU Press issue of *Shanda the Panda* together with issues #1 – #4 of *Shanda's* run at Antarctic Press. As a special bonus it also includes the original 12-page tryout story "Christmas".

Dragon Drive Volume 1 by **Ken-Ichi Sakura** (published by Viz Media) is the new trade-paperback manga collection associated with the popular anime series of the same name. A clumsy, shiftless young boy named Reiji becomes obsessed with *Dragon Drive*: A virtual-reality game where player fight other players by bonding mentally and emotionally with mighty dragons. Reiji's dragon is a tiny runt... but a runt with amazing powers.

Your ever-vigilant ed-otter stumbled across some interesting books recently at Borders. *Animal Attractions* by

Roy Feinson is an updated version of his book *The Animal in You* – both published by St. Martin's Press, and both with the same idea: "Discover your animal type and unlock the secrets of your personality." You find your "Animal Type" by filling out a test that Mr. Feinson devised, then the book offers advice on your compatibility with other "animal type" people... be they your mate, your boss, your friends, or people you've just met! Also found was *Talk the Talk* by **Luc Reid** (Writer's Digest Books), which describes itself as "The slang of 65 American subcultures". Besides groups as diverse as wiccans, goths, and rock climbers, the "subcultures" explored include science fiction fans, gamers, anime fans and – yes, you guessed it – furry fans. He covers definitions for such terms as "digitigrade", "fursuit", "scratching", and even "graymuzzle". Your humble ed-otter's heart was warmed.

Along the same lines as *Animal Attractions*, perhaps, but from a more spiritual angle: *Animal Spirit Guides* by **Dr. Steven D. Farmer** (published by Hay House) explores the spiritual and shamanic significance of more than 200 animal species that may come into our lives at any time. That includes "power animals" there to guide us, as well as animals we invoke at certain times when the need arises.

And the authors keep getting younger ... *Swordbird* is a new fantasy novel by twelve-year-old **Nancy Yi Fan**, published by Harper Collins. In the woods, the cardinals and the blue jays are locked in a vicious war – neither side realizing that they've been set against one another by a tyrannical hawk named Turnatt, who has plans to make a meal out of all of them! That is, until a brave robin, held prisoner by the hawk, escapes to warn the cardinals and jays... and entreat them to help him find the Swordbird, a mystical white avian with the power to vanquish evil and restore peace to the land. From Publisher's Weekly: "Experienced readers will recognize the familiar allegory here, but the book will likely appeal to *Redwall* fans, and this young writer is worth watching."

Furries of a much different sort: *Kiss of the Wolf* is the latest erotic/romance/fantasy novel by **Morgan Hawke**, published by Aphrodisia (which tells you a lot right there). An American werewolf and his cohort, a haughty European vampire, battle a plague of zombies marching across Eastern Europe. Can they pull themselves off of each other long enough to complete their mission?

Stumbled across: The Age of Fire series of novels by **E.E. Knight**, published by Roc. The first book in the series, *Dragon Champion*, introduces us to Auron, a young dragon born without the power of fire. When his brood is killed by marauding dwarves, Auron must make a dangerous journey through hostile territories to find safety among his own kind. *Dragon Avenger*, the second book in the series, follows Auron's surviving sister Wistala as she plots revenge for the murder of their father.

Speaking of dragons... for those who might want to consider keeping one around, there's *How to Raise and Keep a Dragon* by **John Topsell** (a pseudonym for the author **Joseph Nigg**), published by Barron's Educational Series (!). It includes detailed information on choosing, preparing for, and ultimately seeing to the needs of any number of dragon species and some of their relatives (like cockatrices – much smaller, but with deadly breath!). It's profusely illustrated throughout by **Dan Maloney**.


The *Spy Mice* series of juvenile novels by **Heather Vogel Fredrick** (illustrated by **Sally Wern Compton**) attempts to do for James Bond what **Eve Titus** did for Sherlock Holmes with her *Basil of Baker Street* books. A young mouse named Ozymandias Levinson (!) teams up with a mouse secret agent named Morning Glory, hoping to aid her in her constant battle against an evil rat overlord named Roquefort Dupont. Books in the series so far (published by Aladdin) include *The Black Paw*, *For Your Paws Only*, and *Goldwhisker*.

Another recently-found treasure: Environmental activist and essayist **Kelpie Wilson** has branched out and written a science-fiction novel, *Primal Tears* (published by Frog, Ltd.). In an effort to save the endangered bonobo (pigmy chimpanzee), science has created Sage – a half-human, half-bonobo hybrid. Now young Sage must find a place for herself in a human-dominated world.

Fans of **Jasper Fforde's** comic detective novels should look for the *Eddie Bear, Private Detective* series by **Robert Rankin** (published by Orion Books Ltd.). Eddie Bear and his loyal assistant Jack follow the trail of a serial toy-killer, and try to save the citizens of Toy City from an outbreak of STC (Spontaneous Toy Combustion). Books in the series include *The Hollow Chocolate Bunnies of the Apocalypse* (!) and *The Terminator*.

The Complete Calvin and Hobbes is a new three-volume hardcover box set from Andrews McMeel Publishing. Over 1,400 pages long, it features every daily and full-color Sunday cartoon of **Bill Watterson's** famous boy-and-his-tiger comic strip that appeared between 1985 and 1995.

Sometimes it takes a
lot of bull to
be a master
detective.



CattleCapers

by Dawn M. Kravagna

Lured out of early retirement, master detective Adam Steer partners with the cops of Precinct 13 1/2 to save a kidnapp victim before she is (gasps!) foully murdered.

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Aventine Press

ISBN 1-59330-247-9

Ask for it at your favorite bookseller or Amazon.com
young adult/adult

Obituaries

Hanna-Barbera lost two very big names recently. One of them was half the name of the company: **Joseph Barbera** passed away this last December. He was 95 years old. With his long-time partner **William Hanna** (1910 – 2001), Joe created the award-winning *Tom & Jerry* series of cartoons for MGM, before forming Hanna-Barbera Productions in 1944. But it was HB's work in creating TV animation that sealed their fame, as they gave the world the likes of *Yogi Bear*, *Huckleberry Hound*, *The Flintstones*, *The Jetsons*, and of course *Scooby Doo*, *Where Are You?* Which brings us to our second remembrance for this issue: **Iwao Takamoto**, the original creator of *Scooby Doo*, passed away in January. After spending the early part of his life in a WWII prison camp in California (where he learned both art and animation), Mr. Takamoto worked at both Walt Disney Studios (on such films as *Cinderella* and *101 Dalmatians*) and Hanna-Barbera. In addition to his famous canine creation, Mr. Takamoto will be remembered as the director of Hanna-Barbera's 1973 animated film version of *Charlotte's Web*.

"Excelsior! Ya! Ya! Ya!" – Penguin graduation chant, in Warner Brothers' *Happy Feet*.

Furry Stuff has ConFurence Stuff! The original ConFurence General Store (for ConFurcences 0 – 10) has moved to the new Furry Stuff web portal. Check them out at www.furrystuff.com to find out more – soon, pictures of what's available will be up on-line. The of the popular ConFurence T-Shirt designs are still available for a limited time: "Furries in Force" (black on honey-color) by **Eric Schwartz** from CF7, "Furries in Love" (black and pink on grey) by **Rachael Cawley** from CF9, and "Sydney's World" (Sydney on a colored globe on green) by **Ken Sample** from CF10. Plus, a very few of **Mitch Beiro's** colorful "Furries in Space" T-shirts remain (write for sizes available). They also still offer the *ConFurence Seven Highlights Video*, as well as the brand new *ConFurence Eight – Music and Mirth* and *ConFurence Nine – Furries in Love* highlights videos too! And coming soon, a special combination video from CF5 and CF6! Not to mention many cool prints and extra Souvenir Books from past ConFurcences! To find a complete list, visit the Furry Stuff web site, or send them an SASE at: Furry Stuff, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

Help us keep up with you! So, we hear you say, how do I keep up my *Subscription to In-Fur-Nation*? We're glad you asked! A subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* will bring you even more of what furry fans are looking for around the globe. Find out what to look for, and where to go! It's brought right to your doorstep (or your e-mail in-box) four times a year (winter, spring, summer, and fall), and still for just a whopping \$5.00 for a year's subscription. That's right, for a year. Just send a check made out to "Furry Stuff" (and note it's for *In-Fur-Nation*), or heck, just send a \$5.00 bill in a darkened envelope. (Trust us, it's an old tradition in the "zine community. It works). To subscribe, to find out more info, or to send us notes for our Furry News, write us at: In-Fur-Nation, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

A Note to the staff members of our many Furry Conventions: Hey! We wanna help you get the word out! Having a cool-looking web site is a neat thing, but remember: There are still a significant number of fans out there (furry and otherwise) who don't use the World Wide Web, or who don't use it to it's full potential. For them, there's this cool old thing folks on the Internet call *Snail Mail*. That's where we come in! Send us information, and let us help you get the word out to over 1,000 furry fans, artists, dealers, and publishers in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan... Look below for our reasonable ad rates, and don't forget... send us text blurbs and you get in for free!

A Request to Our Readers: Hey, got a favorite comic or book store that carries your favorite furry titles, or that you wish would carry more? Give us their address! We'll send them a copy of In-Fur-Nation each quarter, and keep them abreast of the kind of comics and media that you would like to see on their shelves! Remember, they can't order it if they don't know it's out there! *As an alternate:* Know of any good comic zines or web sites that might be looking to trade issues?

Guess what? In-Fur-Nation is looking for Field Reporters! As an on-going feature, we're going to present profiles of furry creators and furry-oriented companies that are helping to promote products and media of interest to furry animal fans all over. So, like to help out? Know a comic book creator, animator, publisher, or other such person in the field who'd like to discuss what furries mean to them, or to the world? Talk to them, write down what they say... then give us a write-up, about 300-500 words, and we'll include it as a blurb in an upcoming INE, and give you credit for it. [We do maintain the right to edit for clarity and length, mind you.] And hey, we're looking for **furry convention reviews and anecdotes** too! Send hard copies to the Furry Staff address above, or you can e-mail your submission to Rod O'Reilly at mink@firstlight.net.

Advertising in In-Fur-Nation: For those who've been asking, ads in In-Fur-Nation come in these sizes: 1/8-page "business card" size for \$5.00 per issue, and 1/4-page size (4 1/2" tall by 3 1/4" wide) for \$10.00 per issue. Full-page inclusions can also be arranged for \$50.00 an issue. Check should be made out to Furry Stuff. Send camera-ready art and text to P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958, or send email to mink@firstlight.net.

(Many thanks to all the people who helped provide information for this issue both by mail and via Internet! Invaluable help was also received from the web masters of the various furry conventions out there.)

More Furry Conventions All Around!

CaliFur.3

May 4 - 6, 2007, let's all cheer for the bad guys! CaliFur 2007 celebrates *Your Favorite Furry Villains* and their indispensable hench-beings in Costa Mesa this May. (That's about 30 miles south of Los Angeles, for you world travelers!) Scar - Jenner - Dr. Zaius - Jack Salem - Baron Greenback - Fat Cat - Don Karnage - General Woundwort - and more! Who's your favorite? Special video presentations, artwork, and discussion groups are all here to help us celebrate those critters who give the good guys reason to be, well, good!

Our Special Guests for CaliFur Three include the fabulous furry fan-artist known as **Balaa** - Or, out here in Mundanesville known as **Anastasia Korochanskaja**. (Aren't you glad you can call her Balaa? Check out <http://www.furaffinity.net/user/balaa> for a good sampling of just some of her artwork!) Also joining us will be special musical guest **Marc Gunn**: One half of the Celtic/Renaissance band The Brobdingnagian Bards, and more recently the creator of the amazing song collection *Irish Drinking Songs for Cat Lovers* (available at his web site, www.marcgunn.com). More Specials Guests will be added as we get closer to the con, so make sure to keep your eyes on our web site (www.califur.com) for more details! Programming plans for CaliFur Three include the Cabaret Fur le Dance (a Southern California furry tradition!), musical guests, artistic how-to sessions, a Fur Suit Dance - and of course, a chance for you to defeat the villains' evil schemes... before time runs out! All this and much, much more! And, don't forget: CaliFur is hosting the 2007 Ursula Major Award Presentations, honoring all the best in furry media from 2006!

Membership in CaliFur.3 is available for **\$40.00** until April 21, 2007, and **\$45.00** thereafter at the door. Advanced memberships - with increasing perks and increasing prestige - are available at Sponsor, Patron, and Benefactor levels for **\$60.00**, **\$120.00**, and **\$1000.00** respectively. Make sure to visit the web site to find out more!

Rooms at the Holiday Inn Costa Mesa are available for **\$102.00** per night (single to quad), with suites available too (call the hotel for more information). The hotel is located at 3131 S. Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, California, 92626 (right off the 405/San Diego Freeway). Call 800-221-7220 for reservations (the booking code is "2CCC"), or else visit them on line at <http://www.hicostamesa.com> (where the booking code is just "CCC"). And remember - keep in touch with the latest on CaliFur Three by visiting our web site at www.califur.com.

Morphicon 2007

May 18 - 20, 2007, it's time for "Techno-Furs"! Morphicon is an anthropomorphic (or "furry") convention located in the central Ohio area. We have programming planned for three full days, including a masquerade, a variety show, a dance, discussion panels, food events, and room for dealers and artists.

Morphicon 2007's Special Guests include the well-known puppeteer **Steve Plunkett**, furry artist **Summer Jackel**, and furry artist and costumer **Kitt Fox**.

Morphicon will be held May 5 - May 7, 2006, at the Radisson Hotel Columbus-Worthington, 7007 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43085. Ohio Morphicon has secured a block of double-queen rooms for **\$94.00** per night. To reserve a room, call the Radisson directly at 614-436-0700, or fax them at 614-436-5318. You may also call the central office at 1-800-333-3333. Whichever route you go, you must ask for the Morphicon room rate (room block MOR-07). The room rate is guaranteed only through April 26. Please plan ahead and reserve your room early!

Full Registration to Morpheicon is available for **\$40.00** through their web site and at the door. Sponsor memberships are available for **\$55.00**, and Patron memberships for **\$95.00**, again at the door. Check out the web site at www.morpheicon.org for more information about memberships and benefits.

Rocket City Fur Meet

RCFM 2007 - Sci-Five! May 25 - 27, 2007, in Huntsville, Alabama. The Guests of Honor for this returning furry gather include *Faux Pas* creators **Robert & Margaret Carspecken** (known also for their illustrated cook book, *Sweet Treats*), fursuiters **AnimeCat** and **Commander Kitsune**, and the creator of *American Dragon: Jake Long* on the Disney Channel, **Jeff Goode**. All this plus dealers, art instruction, discussion groups, costume presentations, dances, and more! It all takes place at the Radisson Suites Hotel (6000 South Memorial Parkway, Huntsville, AL). **Room Rates** are \$79.00 per night for up to six in a room. **Attending Memberships** are \$35.00 (by mail - \$40.00 at the door), with Supporting Memberships and Sponsorships available too. Once again RCFM will be supporting the local animal rescue center, Parenting Children of Different Species, with special charity events. The Meet's web site is at www.rcfm.net, or you can write to them care of: Ken Barnes, Attn: RCFM, 2603 Landsdale Drive, Huntsville, AL 35810.

Don't Forget - It's time to Vote for the *Ursa Major Awards for 2006!*

More formally known as the Annual Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts Award, the Ursa Major Award is presented annually for excellence in the furry arts. It is intended as Anthropomorphic (a.k.a. Furry) Fandom's equivalent of the Hugo Award ® (presented by the World Science Fiction Society), mystery fandom's Anthony Award, horror fandom's Bram Stoker Award, and so forth.

Voting has begun - and will officially close on Saturday, April 14, 2007! The nominees are:

Best Anthropomorphic Motion Picture - *Cars / Flushed Away / Happy Feet / Ice Age: The Meltdown / Over the Hedge*

Best Anthropomorphic Dramatic Short Work or Series - *Hamm's Boomerang Adventure / Jane and the Dragon / My Gym Partner's a Monkey / Raccoon Daze / Tom & Jerry Takes*

Best Anthropomorphic Novel - *Beyond That Which Divides* (book 3 of the Wilderhorn trilogy), by **Philip J. Eggerding** / *The Catto Comeback*, by **M. Mitchell Marmel** and **E. O. Costello** / *His Majesty's Dragon* (Temeraire book one), by **Naomi Novik** / *The Human Memoirs*, by **Greg Howell** / *Pendant of Fortune*, by **Kyell Gold**

Best Anthropomorphic Short Fiction - "Bob's Greezamus Carol" by **C.D. Woodbury** / "Felicia and the Wrath of the Elder Glops," by **Chas P.A. Melville** / "Full Immersion," by **Phil Geusz** / "Helping Hands," by **Equestrian Horse Wrangler** / "Jacks To Open," by **Kyell Gold** / "Monkey in the Middle," by **Mark Allen Davis**

Best Anthropomorphic Other Literary Work (collections and trade paperbacks) - *A Doomain of Our Own, Volume 1*, by **Susan Rankin** / *ANTHROlogy One*, edited by **Quentin Long** / *Digger, Volume 2*, by **Ursula Vernon** / *Gene Callow, Volume 1*, by **Albert Temple** / *Tai-Pan: Skulduggery*, edited by **Gene Breshears** / *Tofu Knights: Ozy and Millie, 2004 - 2005*, by **D.C. Simpson**

Best Anthropomorphic Comic Book - *Extinctioners*, by **Shawntae L. Howard** / *I.s.o.*, by **Vince Suzukawa** / *Lions, Tigers, and Bears, Volume II*, by **Mike Bullock** and **Jack Lawrence** / *UsagiYojimbo*, by **Stan Sakai** / *ZED* by **Michel Gagné**

Best Anthropomorphic Comic Strip - *A Doomain of Our Own*, by **Susan Rankin** / *Freefall*, by **Mark Stanley** / **Kevin & Kell**, by **Bill Holbrook** / *Ozy and Millie*, by **D.C. Simpson** / *Sabrina Online*, by **Eric W. Schwartz**

Best Anthropomorphic Fanzine - *Anthro / Anthrolations / South Fur Lands / Spontoon Island / Tales of the Tai Pan Universe*

Best Anthropomorphic Published Illustration - Title page for "Bob's Greezamus Carol", by **Chas P.A. Melville** / Cover art for *Extinctioners* #15, by **Eugene Arenhaus** / Cover painting for *Pendant of Fortune*, by **Sara Palmer** / Illustration for "Sire Relief: Entering L'Etoile d'Argent", by **Susan Rankin** / Illustration for "Sire Relief: Holding the Fort", by **Susan Rankin** / Cover art for *Tales of the Tai-Pan Universe* #41, by **Sky Oxford**

Best Anthropomorphic Game - *Daxter / Kingdom Hearts 2* (English release) / *Okami / Over the Hedge / Star Fox Command*

The award nominees were selected by determining the top five vote-getters in each category of the 2006 Recommended Anthropomorphics List; in the event of ties the number of nominees was simply expanded. Ballots are available from the Ursa Major Awards website (www.ursamajorawards.org); the ballot also contains links to as many of the original works as possible. Votes may be cast either by e-mail or by postal mail. The awards will be presented at Califur 3 (see *Conventions, above*). To find out more about the Ursa Major Awards, visit the web site, or send an SASE to: Ursa Major Award, c/o Rod O'Riley, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958, U.S.A.

That's all for this time, my lords and ladies. Our next issue will come bouncing to you in late April of 2006, when the Spring has sprung again. So look for us then! Keep up with the World Wide Furry Movement here in the pages of In-Fur-Nation! Excelsior! (*Rod O'Riley, your ed-otter*)



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